Dear Michel, 12/30/76

It occurs to me that if some of the recent disinformation operations relating to the political assassinations have received attention in France as they have here it may give you concerns. So I write to tell you that they same the aame purposes as the same material applied in a gard, fertilization.

The latest, a deliberate committee leak to the Jack Anderson column, received wide attention in it and thereafter in the news columns. I would feel less uneasy about the state of our press if I could tell you that the whole business is not accurate and let it go at that. Alas it is worse, not that simple. The story, on the face of it, ought not be believable to the average person. Also on the face of it the alleged source cannot be a first-hand source.

The actuality is that the committee is bankrupt and seeks the largest appropriation in Congressional history. It therefore feels it has to create sensations in an effort to make it difficult for the Members not to vote for bother the continuation of the committee's life and this unprecedented and extraordiarily wasteful sum. Being bankrupt and under the control of an uninformed staff that begins with the set of mind of the prosecutor disposed to go the way of the police, it lacks authentic material of any kind with which to get itself continued and financed. So it pulls a typical and unimaginative police stunt, saying that it has evidence of a conspiracy in the King assassination: Without investigation Ray is the assasin and he had a rendezvous in Portugal at which he received further instructions.

The chief counsel has hired an editor from the area of his prosecutions, one of those not opposed to his indifference to legal rights. To make a story out of a non-story it is represented as a big secret from the committee's coming "report." So of course it is accompanied with the explanation that all the money is required to make a proper investigation of this hot lead possible. To make this more credible one of the black members of the committee is awarded the ancillary public attention. He is the one the papers later quote and he is in the headlines. This ie becomes a black demand and not honoring it becames anti-black.

To make it seem as though the committee had been investigating diligently and successfully the formulation is that it has just obtained this sensational new evidence in the past two weeks. It is attributed to a witness "never interviewed by any investigative agency." (I assure you there was no need for him to be and that the odds are that he is the commissioner of corrections of the State of Tennessee who was fired when he tried to entice Ray into letting him write a book about Ray. He even tried to get Ray to let him get one of his friends to be Ray's new lawyer in 1939.)

If Ray had such a rendezvous for new instruction then those instructions were to go to England and be apprehended. Ridiculous. If Ray had a meeting with any co-conspirator in Portugal, whence he planned to go to southern Affice, he would not have gone back to England. Ray lacked less than $100 of ship passage to Rhodesia. He did not dare attempt a burglary in Portugal, where he would be conspicuous. He lacked the funds to go far so he returned to England, pulled a robbery that gave him enough to leave and tried to learn a bit about becoming a mercenary in Africa.

There has been a series of such official operations over the past several months. In no case was anything accurate and in no case was any part of any of these planted stories new. Example: the CIA's electronic surveillance on the embassies in Mexico. I have a year-old request for the transcripts of the interceptions under FOIA. The law is ignored, I do not obtain them, I can't possibly file suit for everything, and a reporter who will do anything for a headline is fed falsehood that supports the notion Oswald was the assassin. In the end it will turn out that the transcripts do not contain what the two CIA people told the repporter they heard. There will then be a new mythology, that the nasty CIA edited this alleged information out. Nobody will stop to think that one would have to be insane to do or say what the stories allege. Yet they received such attention that the entire front page of a Chicago paper was on this one story on 11/14/76. Nobody will wonder why so long before the JFK assassination there was no investigation of the man allegedly offering to sell secrets to the KGB. All the leaks and plants are of this nature, propaganda that doe not even have to be skilled - and isn t... Hope you have had a good holiday and have a good year ahead.